

Abstract 473

TITLE: Risk Factors for HIV Infection Among Adolescent Males Who Have Sex with Males in California

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BACKGROUND/OBJECTIVES: Significant research has examined the risk factors associated with HIV infection in adult men who have sex with men (MSM). Less is known about the risk factors associated with HIV seropositivity for younger MSM (13 to 19 years). Although this demographic group has been difficult to study, they represent an important focus for HIV primary prevention efforts, as young MSM may have psychological issues and behavioral risks that are different from those of older MSM.

METHODS: Utilizing data from the California Department of Health Services, Office of AIDS, for young MSM (13 to 19 years) clients who tested for HIV from July 1, 1995, through June 30, 1997 (N =2,638), we used logistic regression analysis to examine behavioral and demographic variables significantly associated with HIV infection for this group.

RESULTS: The seropositivity rate for this sample was 2.1% (n = 56). Young MSM who identified as African-American (OR = 5.79; 95%CI = 2.75-12.17) or Latino race (OR = 1.96; 95%CI = 1.06-3.64) were at elevated risk for HIV infection when compared to young MSM who were white. Engaging in anal insertive sex (OR = 2.32; 95%CI = 1.18-4.55), having sex with an HIV-infected partner (OR = 2.49; 95%CI = 1.34-4.63) and receiving money for sex (OR = 3.42; 95%CI = 1.80-6.48) was also associated with elevated risk for HIV infection. Additional behavioral risks varied between those young men who were first-time testers and those who were repeat testers. For first-time testers, non-injection drug use (OR = 3.33; 95%CI = 1.06-10.46) and having an HIV-positive partner (OR = 3.75; 95%CI = 1.42-9.89) were associated with HIV infection. For repeat testers, anal insertive sex (OR = 3.18; 95%CI = 1.10-9.17) and trading sex for money (OR = 2.58; 95%CI=1.16-5.75) were associated with HIV infection.

CONCLUSIONS: The young MSM in this analysis demonstrated substantial risk for transmission of HIV infection. Sexually active male adolescents need counseling about sexual activities that may put them at risk for HIV infection with particular attention to young MSM who are African American or Latino. A window of opportunity may exist for this group wherein behavioral interventions may reduce the risk of transmission before the clients introduce themselves to a larger risk of exposure.

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